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SUPPLEMENT TO
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In view of the numerous references made to Law 509, under which certain recent Communist arrests were made, it is felt that the following translation of this law would prove of interest and of some assistance.

COMPULSORY LAW NO. 509¹

Re measures for the Security of the State, the regime and the social system, and for the protection of the liberties of the individual

Article 1

"1. The Communist Party of Greece, the EAM (National Liberation Front) and the National Solidarity Movement, which have actively prepared and are carrying out treasonable rebellion against the integrity of the State, are dissolved. Moreover, any other political party, association or organization, which, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the following paragraph, would be deemed as co-operating with them, or as aiming directly or indirectly to apply ideas whose object is to overthrow the present form of Government, the existing social system, or to disintegrate the State by violent means, shall be dissolved also.

"2. In the case of parties, associations or organizations not referred to above, as well as of organizations which may be established after the coming into force of this law during the course of the rebellion,² it shall be determined by the Council of Ministers whether or not they fall within the provisions of the preceding paragraph in the case of a party, and in all other cases this shall be determined by the Public Security Committees of First Instance of the locality

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concerned, and no legal recourse shall be allowed against the decisions issued by the above authorities.

"3. The offices of the parties, associations and organizations which are dissolved, shall be closed down, their lease shall be annulled, and all their property and records shall be seized by the relevant Public Prosecutor's service.

"4. The property and records which according to the preceding paragraph are subject to seizure, shall be confiscated by decision of the Council of the Court of Misdemeanors of the locality where the seizure took place. The decision shall determine which of the confiscated articles will be sold. The proceeds of sale shall be used exclusively for the support of the victims of the rebellion.

Article 2

"1. Any person aiming to apply ideas whose manifest object is to overthrow the form of Government, or ruling social system, and to cause the disintegration of the State by violent means, or any person endeavoring to propagate ideas in favor of the above ends, shall be liable, if he is a commander or leader, to imprisonment from 10 to 20 years, or to life imprisonment or death in specially serious cases, and in the case of ordinary accomplices, to imprisonment for a maximum term of 5 years, but in serious cases to imprisonment from 5 to 20 years.

"2. Within the meaning of aggravating circumstances, will be taken to be included any act committed in a public place, in the presence of many persons, or through the Press, or any effort to make converts conducted with money or directed at persons under lawful age, or at the military in general or at public functionaries.

Article 3

"1. In case the offenses referred to in the preceding article have been committed through the Press, the author or compiler of the publication, the Director or Editor of the printed matter and the person who knowingly has undertaken the circulation of it, and if the Editor is unknown, the printer, shall be liable to prosecution.

"2. The persons referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be liable also to forfeit their license as journalists, printers or editors for a minimum term of one year, and in case of a recurrence of the offense they shall be liable to lose their professional license irrevocably.

"3. Any person pursuing his profession in spite of a prohibition, shall be liable to imprisonment for a maximum term of 5 years, and in case of a recurrence of the offense for a maximum term of 10 years.

Article 4

"1. Open air gatherings, or in an enclosed space, of persons aiming to apply the ideas referred to in Article 2, are prohibited.

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- "2. Any person willfully attending such gatherings, shall be liable to imprisonment for a minimum term of 6 months.
- "3. Any person willfully accepting in his house or premises a gathering of the sort referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, shall be liable to imprisonment for a minimum term of 6 months, the conviction will necessarily annul the lease of the premises and cause the forfeiture of any protection granted under the rent restrictions law.
- "4. Any person maliciously obstructing a lawful political gathering, shall be liable to imprisonment for a maximum term of 5 years.

Article 5

- "1. The conviction of Government employees and servants for any offense under this law, shall imply loss of service, which shall be pronounced by the sentence, and the convicted person shall be also debarred from right to appointment to any public office or service for a minimum term of 5 years.
- "2. Military persons of any rank, as well as persons employed with the Public Security Services, if convicted of any offense under this law, shall be removed from service and shall forfeit all rights deriving from their office or service. Such convictions imply a permanent bar to appointment to any public office or service. These penalties shall be applied even if not pronounced in the sentence.

Article 6

- "1. Government employees and servants, who, although they have not committed any transgression punishable under this law, yet propagate Communist principles or attack the conception of patriotic duty to the country or the national flag, etc., shall be finally dismissed from service by decision of the relevant Council.
- "2. Military persons of any rank and persons employed with the Public Security Services, who, although they have not committed any transgression punishable under this law, yet propagate subversive ideas in respect to the ruling social system, or attack the conception of patriotic duty to the country or the national flag, etc., shall be finally dismissed from service by decision of the relevant Council. In the case of Reserve Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, the Council of Inquiry to which they shall be committed shall order the degree of their demotion.

Article 7

- "1. The offense covered by this law shall be examined and tried in accordance with the provisions laid down in Resolution III concerning special measures for public order and security. The serving of the sentences shall also be performed in accordance with the provision of the same Resolution.
- "2. The Courts Martial, when imposing punishment or imprisonment for offenses covered by this law, are entitled to order the suspension of the punishment on conditions. If a person who is thus discharged, commits the same or similar offense within 3 years, he shall be liable to serve the sentence which had been suspended, concurrently with the new sentence; in any other case the punishment

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shall be deemed to have been served. Moreover the Courts Martial may, on imposing imprisonment, convert the sentence to deportation for an equal period.

Article 8

"The penalties provided for under this law apply only insofar as the offense is not punished under standing legislation by a heavier sentence.

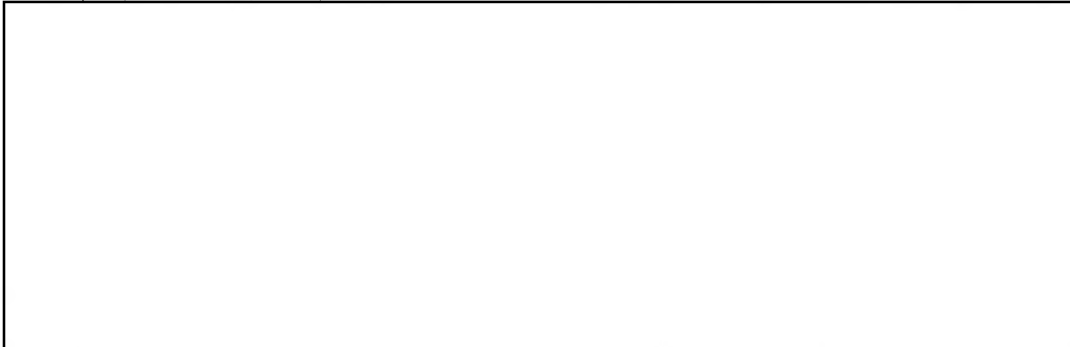
Article 9

"1. Any particulars concerning the application of this law shall be determined by Royal Decree on the proposal of the Ministers of Justice, War and Public Order.

"2. This law shall come into force with effect from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette, and it shall be submitted to Parliament as soon as convened, for ratification.

"27 December 1947"

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